"Sharpening Your Discernment"
Hebrews 5:13

Principle: The devil's attacks in our lives are rarely overt or out in the open.

"And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve." 2 Corinthians 11:14, 15

"Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil." Hebrews 5:13, 14

Principle: Walking in discernment is a sign of walking in spiritual maturity.

"They are to teach my people the difference between the holy and the common and show them how to distinguish between the unclean and the clean. In any dispute, the priests are to serve as judges and decide it according to my ordinances. They are to keep my laws and my decrees for all my appointed feasts, and they are to keep my Sabbaths holy." Ezekiel 44:23, 24

Five important principles of discernment:

1. We must discern between good and evil.

   "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves." Matthew 7:15

   Characteristics of false teachers:

   A. Insatiability
   B. Immorality
   C. Independence
   D. Innovation

2. We must discern between what is real and what is illusion
3. We must discern between what is good and what is best
4. We must discern between our desires and God's plan
5. We must discern between what is of the Holy Spirit, what is of the human spirit, and what is of hellish spirits.

   How to test a Spirit:

   1. Observe what a person does
   2. Observe whether or not a person exalts Jesus Christ
   3. Listen to what a person says

Five ways of developing greater spiritual discernment:

1. We must ask for spiritual discernment.

   "Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I believe in your commands." Psalms 119:66

2. We must rely on the Holy Spirit to be the source of truth within us

   "However, as it is written: No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him – but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man, except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us." 1 Corinthians 2:9-12

3. We must study the Word of God

   "Take the….sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" Ephesians 6:17

4. We must receive discernment by faith
5. We must walk in humility

What do you do when you discern that Satan is attacking you?

1. Commit every area of your life to the lordship of Jesus.
2. Confess and renounce the area of sin and temptation you are dealing with
3. Command any spirits that you are dealing with to leave
4. Crush all objects associated with the area of sin you are struggling with
5. Shake it off

   "And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them." Mark 6:11

   "They make their tongues as sharp as a serpent's the poison of vipers is on their lips" Psalms 140:3

   "No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you." Isaiah." Isaiah 54:17

   "He who rejects you rejects me." Luke 10:16